

ILLEGIB

Subject

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SECURITY INFORMATION

OGC Has Reviewed

28 February 1952

THROUGH

AD/SO

General Counsel

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Strategic Services Unit

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1. [redacted] of this office recently met with [redacted] to discuss present SSU activities. Areas of responsibility for matters purely legal, purely administrative, the gray area between legal and administrative and BEC claims arising from OSS activities were discussed and mutual agreement found in accord with the established practices of the past year and a half. The discussions highlighted the fact that SSU activities have oftentimes been considered of secondary importance which, due to the press of work of prime importance and a shortage of assigned personnel, have resulted in a consequent heavy backlog of SSU correspondence and related matters.

2. Were these the only facts to be considered, the probable solution to the present situation would be evident. However, it appeared to those present that little consideration has been given to the office or the persons, if any, who will handle SSU matters at the administrative level, after integration with OPC. It was felt that the merger would foreclose that activity by the EXO/OSO.

3. It is our sense that the continuity of interest and of personnel within OSO has been a vital factor in handling SSU matters. Persons were and are on board within OSO who have first-hand knowledge of matters which, to persons without that knowledge, would be nearly incomprehensible due to the oftetime paucity of documentation. They are the persons that are best able to dig out the facts of any given situation, in order that a reasonably clear picture may be presented to the appropriate agency unit for final determination or coordination. We also feel that the continuing volume of SSU claims and requests for information and the guidance that is found in OSS files, for such programs as the present personnel recruitment of former OSS employees, illustrates the fact that the functions of SSU have not decreased to the point of final liquidation or closing out of records. They have rather continued on even volume and importance.

4. Based on the foregoing considerations, it is our opinion that a present review of SSU activities is desirable, looking toward:

a. due recognition of the importance of OSS archives files and SSU activities; and

b. formulation of positive plans for the continued handling of SSU matters, to be guided by persons with first-hand knowledge

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of the background and assisted by sufficient personnel to handle the work load.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

OGC/LRH/JGO:mb

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